

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 131001Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0932

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

COMUSTDC TAIPEI TAIWAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, CH, VS, VN, RP, TW

SUBJECT: INCREASING ROC CONCERN OVER PUBLIC REACTION TO SPRATLEYS

REF: A) TAIPEI 0825; B) TAIPEI 0827

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

TDC FOR J-22

1. WE FIND CONTINUING INDICATIONS THAT ROC AUTHORITIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC REACTION TO GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OVER SPRATLEYS. FEBRUARY 9 "CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO" EDITORIAL ON SPRATLEYS DEFENDED GOVERNMENT AND CALLED ON PEOPLE NOT TO "ABRUPTLY DOUBT AND DEGRADE THE GOVERNMENT". REFERENCING PRC ACTION IN PARACELS, PAPER CALLED ON PEOPLE TO JUDGE "THE TWO DIFFERENT REGIMES IN THE NATION" ON THE BASIS OF THE OVERALL "CORRECTNESS OR INCORRECTNESS, PATRIOTISM OR TREACHERY". EDITORIAL WENT ON TO MILDLY LECTURE GOVERNMENT FOR PLAYING DOWN NEWS ON SPRATLEYS SAYING "PEOPLE
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IN POWER" SHOULD REPORT ALL THE FACTS TO THE PEOPLE. EDI-

TORIAL ALSO WARNED RVN NOT TO INFRINGE ON THE TERRITORY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ROC OR SLIGHT ITS NATIONAL DIGNITY AND IN REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE ANTI-CHINESE MOVEMENT IN RVN CALLED ON ROC TO PROTECT CHINESE THERE.

2. YEN CHEN-HSING, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, TOLD DCM FEBRUARY 11 HE WAS CONCERNED -- THOUGH NOT ALARMED -- ABOUT POSSIBLE STUDENT ACTIVISM OVER THE SPRATLEYS AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NOW THAT STUDENTS ARE RETURNING TO CAMPUS AFTER WINTER VACATION.

3. SAME DAY MOFA ANNOUNCED THE ROC EMBASSY IN MANILA HAD DELIVERED A NOTE TO THE RP EXPLAINING THAT THE RP'S NOTE PROTESTING ALLEGED ROC "DISPLAY OF FORCE" WAS UNFOUNDED AND "REASSERTING THE ROC'S INHERENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE NAN SHA ARCHIPELAGO (SPRATLEYS)". (EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED COPY OF NOTE AND WILL TRANSMIT WHEN RECEIVED.)

4. COMMENT: WE ASSUME PUBLICITY OVER NOTE TO RP IS EFFORT TO SHOW GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ACTION. GRC MUST TREAD CAREFULLY IN DOMESTIC HANDLING SPRATLEYS QUESTION SINCE PUBLIC MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ROC SOVEREIGNTY IN SPRATLEYS COULD SERIOUSLY EMBARRASS AUTHORITIES WHO WISH TO AVOID ANY DANGEROUS ADVENTURE. MOST OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED ISSUE HOPE IT WILL SIMMER DOWN IF RVN DESISTS FROM ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS.
MCCONAUGHY

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